

## History of The Institute of Nutrition

at

### The Ohio State University

The Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology was officially established on April 22, 1946 by the action of the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University. The establishment of the Institute was the result of the efforts of a number of faculty members, including Dr. T. S. Sutton and Dr. J. B. Brown, to provide a mechanism for communication and cooperation among nutritionists and food technologists located in many departments throughout the University. The original objectives of the Institute were established by a committee appointed in the spring of 1946 by Dean Alpheus Smith of the Graduate School. These objectives were: to promote interdepartmental research in nutrition and food technology, to organize and integrate instructional programs which enable students to receive training in these fields, and to mobilize talents and facilities of the University faculty and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

To achieve these objectives the Institute was authorized to:

- 1) receive grants-in-aid to enable students to receive training for careers in nutrition and food technology,
- 2) conduct training programs with seminars among cooperative departments throughout the University, and
- 3) participate with other groups and organizations in research or service programs.

Dr. Sutton was appointed the first Director of the Institute and he established four committees to further the objectives of the organization. These were the Executive Committee, Research Committee, Committee on Instruction and Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee, which met quarterly to consider the administrative and business matters of the institute, was composed of six members elected by the membership of the Institute. The Committee on Instruction was composed of 11<sup>x</sup>

members of the Institute who met monthly to develop the instructional program of the Institute. This committee set up a curricula in food science, developed courses for the Institute and was responsible for many other academic achievements. The Committee on Research was designed to develop the research program of the Institute. Its objectives were to assemble all information on research in nutrition and food technology throughout the campus, encourage new projects, integrate and strengthen current research and promote funds for general support. The Nominating Committee consisted of three members, elected from the membership of the Institute, to submit names of members to fill various spaces in the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology.

A brochure, "Your Career in Nutrition," was prepared describing the activities of the Institute. This brochure was published to encourage students to enroll in a career in food sciences under the direction of Dr. J. B. Brown.

In 1950, Dr. Sutton resigned as Director and was replaced by Dr. Brown. Dr. Sutton remained active in Institute affairs, however, as advisory council to Dr. Brown.

One of the inovations by Dr. Brown that became especially popular with the membership of the Institute was the publication of a monthly news bulletin. Publication continued over several years and provided a review of programs and activities of the membership of the Institute as well as a summary of current literature.

The Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology began sponsorship of an Interdepartmental Seminar in spring quarter of 1951. This activity proved to be very successful and sponsorship has continued.

For the first few years of its existence, the Institute served only as a communicative device for the membership although it was recognized initially that research facilities were needed. At that time, there was a requirement for an analytical laboratory that would perform services in microbiological and

biochemical areas of nutrition. As a result of the efforts of a special committee, the Institute was allocated 6000 square feet of laboratory space in the Rockwell building, now called the Research Center. The research activities of the Institute were significantly increased when Dr. Ralph Johnson joined the staff on June 1, 1959 as Director of the Laboratories. Dr. Johnson, as chairman of the Program Committee, was very successful in securing funds to equip the new laboratories. Under his direction, the staff of the Institute was increased and its objectives were expanded.

During the years that the Institute has been actively engaged in research, numerous faculty and students have used the facilities. Although the Institute was involved in the academic program only indirectly, several students were supported with space, equipment and financial support with funds from sources such as a National Institutes of Health Training Grant.

In 1963, Dr. Brown retired as Director of the Institute and was replaced by Dr. Johnson. Dr. Brown was given the title of Director Emeritus and an award in recognition of his thirteen years of outstanding service to the Institute.

The Institute was reorganized administratively in 1963 in that the function of several of the standing committees were assumed by an Executive Committee.

Further reorganization occurred in 1967 when the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology was placed administratively in the College of Biological Sciences. Dr. Johnson became the first Dean of this new college but still retained the position of Director of the Institute until March, 1968. At that time, Dr. John Allred became the Director. During the spring of 1968, the name of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology was changed to the Institute of Nutrition.

Currently, the Institute of Nutrition has thirty members from various departments of the University. The Institute has slowly evolved over the years from a communications organization to a research facility primarily dedicated to basic problems in Nutrition. As this evolution occurred, the Institute became more

involved in the academic programs in this field. Because of the growing importance and the demands in the field of nutrition, the establishment of an academic department of nutrition has been seriously considered and efforts are continuing in this regard.